

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 23, and 24 are pending in the Office Action. Claims 16-22 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 1 and 3-6 have been amended. Claims 2 and 16-24 have been canceled without prejudice. Applicant reserves the right to prosecute Claims 16-22 in a divisional application. No new matter has been added. The rejections of the claims are respectfully traversed in light of the amendments and following remarks, and reconsideration is requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication that Claims 2-6 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim 2 has been incorporated into independent Claim 1 and all other pending claims made dependent upon Claim 1, thus making all pending claims allowable.

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CONCLUSION

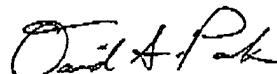
For the above reasons, Applicant believes pending Claims 1 and 3-7 are in condition for allowance and allowance of the Application is hereby solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, the Examiner is hereby requested to telephone Applicant's Attorney at (949) 752-7040.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to Official Facsimile number for Technology Center 2800 at (703) 872-9306, to the attention of Examiner Tung X. Nguyen, Mail Stop AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on February 27, 2004.


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Respectfully submitted,



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